on lease to foreign oil companies for oil and gas exploration ; and

(b) if so, what are tbe terms and conditions of the lease ; bow many foieign oil companies have approached" for the fresh lease ; bow many foreign companies are engaged in offshore exploration and bow many points/places of exploration tbey have succeeded in their efforts to locate petroleum ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETRO LEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The term and conditions for oil exploration and production by foreign oil companies in the country have not yet been finalised.

Royalty on crude oil

130. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the award regarding royalty on crude oil, pen ing since, long, for Gujarat and Assam has been declared jifsdjwba .e the details thereof :

(b) what are tbe 1 for the delay, if any :

(e) wbether the Government of Gujarat have asked for 20 per cent as royalty of sale price in national or international market ;

(d) whether it is also a fact in the past erstwhile Prmie Ministers were sympathetically considering-award on tbe basis of national or international prices ; and

(e) what are the current pit head, national and international prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETRO LEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA .) and (b) No, Sir. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Royalty is fixed, on balance of .several consideration the desirability of providing reasonable revenue to tbe States wb i oilis produced, the extentto which ii would add to tbe price of petrolei products etc. According to Oilfields (Regulation and I lopment) Act it cannol e: of the well-bead price of crude The base price of domestic crw oil is Rs. 968 per tonne. The current international well-be price of crude oil is not available. The commercial international price ofefudeoilis about USf 200/MT.

Sponge Iron Project

SHRI RAOOF VALIUL-LAH : Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND NATURAL G be pleased to state :

(a) whedter Government ofG rat has requested the Petroleum a d Natural Gas Ministry to reaflirm its commitment to supply natural gas and also to announce the price thereof for the sponge iron proje to be put up by GIIC in the jo' sector at Hazira near Sural ;

(b) whether in view of acquisition and offers from for collaborators and expendittue Rs. 20 lakhs by State Government Undertaking, the Government have taken am decision in the matter of supply and price fixation of gas ; and

if no, , when the decision is like.K to be taken ? ,

THE MINISTER OP STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF P TROEEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAYVAE K I S i l O SHARMA) : (a; The Governro of Gujarat hav< ted the M Stry of Eetroli'imi and Natural for' allocation of 0-50 million en